

that joined, and a rather hooked nose, full of grace, for sometimes he appeared a man and sometimes he had the face of an angel." Recently some papyrus manuscript was discovered in an Egyptian tomb giving the "sayings of Jesus," sentences wonderfully like the teachings of the Master, and breathing his spirit. One day we doubt not complete documentary evidence will be found setting in a clear light the doctrinal interpretation and ecclesiastical practice of the primitive church, settling all the controverted questions which have so long divided Christendom, and restoring, at least to universal knowledge, the ancient faith. Whether it will do much good is another question, for there is a certain well known and widespread moral quality which "will not be persuaded tho one rose from the dead." The scriptures as we have them are light sufficient for the honest, earnest man, whereas the other kind would not be enlightened tho he were baptized in the sun.

#### The Sunday School Literature

The Sunday Schools of the Brethren church are most loyal in the support of their own literature. The sale of quarterlies for the present quarter, January March, 1899, has been larger than that of any previous winter quarter. This is owing to two things: Fewer schools close during the winter, and second, the literature is gaining in popularity. We wish to thank our schools for their hearty support, but regret exceedingly that our stock of quarterlies was exhausted before all orders were filled. In our effort to economize for the Board we overreached ourselves. There are but few schools in the brotherhood not using our literature, and we know of no *strictly Brethren* school not using it. Surely this is encouraging. If there are any schools dissatisfied with the literature, we have not heard from them, tho we have heard from many who are lavish in their praise of the literature.

American and English apathy concerning the Czar's universal peace scheme is not a very encouraging sign of the times. What is the meaning of the widespread indifference of the church on a subject of such vital and appropriate interest? Is it true, as the *Independent* says, that the church wants war? In the light of such utterances by representative and influential religious (?) journals, we need not be surprised at the cynical reception of the Czar's great proposal at the hands of the church. The *Independent*, or whatever other journal, which cools the peace ardor of the church and gives countenance to war, incurs the guilt of blood. Even Emperor William, the war lord, heartily endorses the scheme of the Czar. Of all jingoes in world, the fighting religious editor is the most contemptible.

Obedience that goes half-way doesn't start.

#### Consecrated Anew

J. R. Miller.

The battle cry of a certain Western regiment in our Civil War was the name of a field in Mexico where the regiment had brought disgrace upon itself. The memory of the old stain on the colors fired the men with bravery almost superhuman and they burned out the old shame in deeds of heroic valor on the new field.

So should it be in life. Shall not the memory of our weakness or sin fire us with intense desire to be strong and true hereafter? Shall not the shame of our past failures become a mighty motive to noble and heroic living in the days to come? Shall we not seek to burn out the dishonor of our old record with the brilliant flame of a new loyalty and consecration? Not only should penitence become repentance, but the sorrow we feel over our errors should become energy and impulse toward holy life and consecrated service.

#### Brief Notes

Some one says that swearing and excessive alcoholic drinking are both growing less; but for all that the sea is still very, very large.

If all praying was prayer the very heavens would rend to pour down blessings, and the millennium would leap over a century or so, it would be so constrained to reach us.

When we pray to God who knows us thro and thro, who kens our secret thoughts, and is acquainted with all our ways, what will we say to him? Consider well, for how can we deceive God, or why should we lie to him?

When Dr. Metaphysical Profound preaches over the heads of his people, as he usually does, he reminds us of a balloon; merely extract the gas and the whole high flung humbug will flop down to the ground in a great heap.

The effort to make the church service attractive to the carnal mind is likely to prove a stupendous task. We know however, how it can be done: Convert the service into a slashing entertainment, and Mr Carnal Mind will buy a ticket to get in.

Kaiser Wilhelm threw handfuls of gold among his soldiers on Christmas day. If those who have every thing and then some, were as just always as they are sometimes generous, this would be a happier world.

Elaborate ceremonies attended the transfer of Cuba from the dominion of Spain to the military occupation of the United States on January 1. Uncle Sam proudly stepped into the palaces and forts of Havana on that day.

It is reported that President McKinley will appoint the Catholic Archbishop Ireland as America's representative to the Czar's peace congress. The catholicity of Brother McKinley's mind will arouse a whole kennel of barking pups around his heels, if he doesn't watch out.

Don Carlos, the Spanish pretender, is endeavoring to foment a revolution in his interests in that unhappy country. How bloody and criminal these would-be kings are willing to be in order to enjoy the dubious glory of sitting on a throne. Much does Carlos care how many will go down that he may go up.

The Christmas season appears to have been marked with an unusual amount of beastly revelry, drunkenness, rioting, etc. Hospital authorities in New York reported an unusual increase of alcoholic and insane patients during the holidays. It is thus that unregenerate human nature celebrates the holiest anniversary in our calendar. And yet men preach to us on the "inherent nobility of human

nature." To a very large degree the inherent part of it is coarseness and bestiality. Even good people have fallen too much into the gross habit of rich feeding and consequent gluttony on this sacred festival, and Sundays too, for that matter. A reform is needed here. Fondness for the groaning table is a dangerous foe to spirituality. Let the preachers cry out against it.

The United Society of Christian Endeavor has received the following message from Editor William T. Stead, of London, for the Christian Endeavorers of the world:

The year 1899 brings with it a great opportunity. In the last nine years Christian governments have spent upon armaments for war a sum far exceeding \$5 000 000,000. To abate this gigantic waste of the resources of civilization, the Russian Emperor has summoned all governments to a conference. That conference will fail unless vigorously supported by demonstrations of enthusiastic approval all around the world.

I appeal to the Christian Endeavorers to do their part in evoking that enthusiasm and in giving it practical shape. Now is the time to act. Let each society be converted into a local peace committee, and undertake the duty of getting up steam for the peace conference. Otherwise the responsibility for the failure of this great opportunity may rest on your heads.

That money is the fin de-siecle god of this world is manifest to all observers, and this idolatry is more or less winked at by the church. Daily newspapers chronicle the movements of very rich persons as if they were royal personages. The coming of the billionaire is announced as if he was a descending deity. The question of peace or war among nations has become a question of commerce, bonds, stocks, and securities. To further the interests of decency, virtue and charity, and to save society from intolerable corruption. Religion has to beg parsimony to the point of abject humiliation for the pittance with which to carry on her half-starved work. Facts like these argue a total disbelief in anything like a future life, or in anything like God, or in any judgment to come. What is this world, or what is this life, or what is a billion dollars, when we put these things along side of eternity? And yet sane people, Christian people, act as if those bubbles were the eternity, and the eternity a bubble.

The Philipinos are still making abortive attempts to start their independent government. At the end of four hundred years of frightful oppression we have given them their liberty, and it now looks as if we were going to have trouble with them. But we must draw a line between the people and the politicians; the latter gentry are the trouble makers.

Senator Butler of North Carolina has earned a cheap notoriety by introducing a bill for the pensioning of Confederate veterans. Confederate veteran camps in the South are denouncing the bill as an insult to southern manhood. Statesmen of the Butler type are a worse disgust than heroes of the Hobson type. Poor Hobson, how short lived was his fame, and how badly it turned his head. It is a pity to make a fool of a fine young fellow like that.

The outcry against seating Roberts the Mormon congressman is increasing daily. The politicians at Washington would let him in without a scruple, but there is one thing the politician is afraid of, and that is his constituency. Let the good people of the land, and especially the good women keep up the agitation until the blatant polygamist suffers the defeat he so richly deserves.

Another "Napoleon" issues another manifesto to France hoping to take advantage of the present agitation in that godless country to revive the empire. Expositors of prophecy expect to see the Napoleonic empire resurrected,—the "beast" who received a deadly wound by the sword, (at Waterloo and Sedan) is to be healed, they say, and wield a greater and more baleful power than ever before in the history of the world.